
Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) Overview

An ICF/MR is a facility that serves 4 or more individuals whose primary purpose is the provision of health or rehabilitative services to individuals with mental retardation, or related conditions, receiving care and services under the Medicaid program.



An ICF/MR is expected to provide food, shelter, treatment, or services to four or more individuals, who are unrelated to the proprietor. ICFs/MR may vary in size from very large multi-unit, multi-level facilities with sophisticated programs to very small, home-like settings with required services provided through an arrangement with community organizations.

ICF/MR Federal and State Requirements

In Idaho, ICFs/MR are governed by both federal certification regulations and state licensure rules. Applicable federal certification requirements are found in the State Operations Manual, [Chapter 2](#), Section 2130B, Appendix J and Q. Applicable state licensure rules are found at IDAPA 16.03.11. Below is a brief overview of the regulations and rules. Please see Appendix J and Q, as well as, IDAPA 16.03.11 for additional information.

Appendix J – Guidance to Surveyors: Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation

[Appendix J](#) includes federal statutory designation and W-tag number, the regulatory language, and interpretive guidance. The regulations are divided into Conditions of Participation (CoPs or Conditions) and standard level requirements. CoPs represent the overall services and supports an ICF/MR must provide. Under each CoP are the standard level regulations associated with that CoP.

Conditions of Participation (CoPs)

At each CoP, the guidelines contain compliance principles that identify those outcomes that must be present in order for the Condition to be found “met,” and those outcomes that indicate the Condition is “not met.” The purpose of the compliance principles is to assist in consistent decision-making about facility compliance at the CoP level.

Standard Level Requirements (Standards)

Under each CoP are standard level requirements. The guidance at standard level requirements may include facility practice statements, guidelines, and probes. The purpose of facility practice statements, guidelines, and probes is to clarify the information that is relevant to specific requirements, and to increase the survey focus on outcomes for individuals.

Appendix Q – Guidelines for Determining Immediate Jeopardy



[Appendix Q](#) provides guidance specific to situations of Immediate Jeopardy. Jeopardy is defined as a situation in which the facility’s noncompliance “...*has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a resident receiving care in a facility.*”

The three components of Immediate Jeopardy are *Harm*, *Immediacy*, and *Culpability*. Harm can be actual or potential; immediacy means the harm is likely to occur in the very near future if immediate action is not taken; and culpability asks if the facility knew or should have known about the situation.

IDAPA 16.03.11 – Rules Governing Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

[State licensure](#) rules are similar in nature to the Federal certification regulations. However, state rules do not have different levels, such as Conditions or Standards, as found in the federal requirements.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the ICF/MR program, including a glossary of terms, please visit the CMS web site at www.cms.hhs.gov .